

Net Neutrality

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The FCC,

It should not escape anyone within the 21st century that we live in a corporate world, with each of these corporations angling for space and intent to push others out of their way. In purview of this factor the mere definition of net neutrality would fade to oblivion in the coming future. A more cohesive society must be led by a principle that ISP's should give access for all applications and content irrespective of the source without favor or blockage of certain sites or specific products. Furthermore providers discriminating access for consumer harm will see a rigorous decline in customer base to other competitors. (Peha, 2007)

Barack Obama captures this phenomena explicitly in his speech in 2006 in which he opines that the internet is a platform that is open in which demand for services and websites determine success. All entrants face low barriers which are equal, one is free from censorship and they can receive content without need for a special charge. He points to the big cable and telephone companies who are bent at changing the way the internet works for everyone by creating special fast lane for certain content with which they intend to reap from exclusive contract on the high speed lanes. This practice relegates some users to slow lanes and congestion as there exist no major incentive to aid development of these lanes. He sums up by refusing to assent to these forces as he sees it as a means of aiding corporate duopoly in the future of which I concur with his opinion and which you should take note (Marsden, 2009).

Christopher Marsden (2009) while quoting Sir Tom Berners Lee disputes the notion that net neutrality infers getting the internet for free. He states that net neutrality has existed before and people have had to pay more for the internet for better services of which the current regime of neutrality does not oppose.

Lehr et al. (2007) espouses the probabilities of rules controlling network neutrality failing to be enshrined in policy frameworks in the United States. They make a spirited argument for co-regulation as opposed to net neutrality regulation through legislation. In the arguments they point towards the economic perspectives of the providers and the motives that would rise in a regime with no neutrality. They however point towards cost recovery as a factor and the increased change of internet traffic as perspectives for dismantling network neutrality.

All the above arguments take an economic outlook and do not necessarily tap into the growth of the internet as we know but are aimed at maintenance of a status quo bereft of the need to encourage innovation, activism or the pursuit of specific freedoms of the underprivileged or special interest groups (Kramer, Wiewiorra, & Weinhardt, 2013). Google and Yahoo are a product of net neutrality and have had stellar impacts on the world as we know it today (Lehr, Gillett, Sirbu & Peha, 2007). The question would be, who stands to gain in a regime with no internet neutrality? It is not the common man, it is the corporations. Further even where controls would be made, there exist a big probability that it would be impossible to distinguish between good or bad discriminatory behavior creating a daunting challenge to policy makers.

Older and current generations have continually fought for fundamental freedoms inherent by birth and inalienable in nature of which network neutrality stands as core to the creation of a level playing field. Thereby I do posit that it would be guarding our rights to communicate and connect via networks that are universally affordable, open, fast and accessible devices and networks.

References

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